MALCOLM X'S SLAYER CLEARS TWO OTHERS

Contends Men Convicted With Him Are Innocent of 1965 Murder

A confessed assassin asserted in court papers yesterday that two men convicted with him of murdering Malcolm X were innocent, and named four other men he said had actually taken part in killing the black leader nearly 13 years ago.

The statement, by Thomas Hagan, was made in an affidavit filed in State Supreme Court in Manhattan by William M. Kunstler, the attorney, on behalf of Norman 3X Butler and Thomas 15X Johnson.

Mr. Kunstler filed a motion for a hearing to set aside the conviction of Mr. Butler and Mr. Johnson on the ground of newly discovered evidence. Mr. Hagan is serving a life sentence at the Napanoch Correction Facility in Ulster County.

In the court papers, Mr. Hagan declared that Mr. Butler and Mr. Johnson were innocent of the slaying and named his four confederates as Brother Lee, Brother Been, Willie X and Willbour.

Mr. Kunstler said he did not know where the men were.

Mr. Hagan said in his affadavit that the assassination plot was hatched in Paterson, N.J., after Malcolm X was "declared a hypocrite by the nation of Islam."

Malcolm X was assassinated in February 1965 while standing on the stage of Harlem's Audubon Ballroom to address a rally of 400 followers belonging to his newly formed group, Afro-American Unity. He formed the black nationalist organization after defecting from the Black Muslims in 1964.

Mr. Hagan, who was beaten by Malcolm X's followers after the shotting and two other men were arrested and charged with the murder.

Despite Mr. Hagan's insistence during the trial that Mr. Butler and Mr. Johnson were innocent, all three were convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 1966. The police originally believed that five men were involved in the shooting.

In the papers filed yesterday, Mr. Kuntsler said that Mr. Hagan refused to name his confederates at the time of the trial, but that after many meetings with Nuriddin Faiz, a chaplain at Napanoch, the convicted assassin decided to provide details of the slaying and the identity of his confederates.

A hearing was scheduled for Dec. 21